

CALSTRS

Survivor Benefits

Remember Your Loved Ones



2009-2010

CalSTRS can help you.

As you plan for your future, remember your loved ones with CalSTRS survivor benefits.

Your spouse, registered domestic partner, children or other loved ones may be eligible for survivor benefits after your death. The type and amount of benefits depend on:

- Your years of service credit
- Your type of coverage—A or B
- Whether you choose to elect an option
- Your membership status—active or retired

Keep this brochure with your other important papers and share it with your beneficiaries.

The Benefits

Depending on your coverage and membership status at the time of your death, your beneficiaries may be eligible for three types of benefits:

- One-time death benefit
- Monthly benefit
- Defined Benefit Supplement distribution



One-Time Death Benefit

When you die, those you designated on your *One-Time Death Benefit Recipient* form will receive a one-time death benefit if eligibility requirements are met. This benefit is separate from any possible lifetime monthly benefit your beneficiaries could receive after your death.

Eligibility for the one-time death benefit depends on your membership status at the time of your death. Your recipients will receive this benefit if you die:

- During active service
- In service retirement
- While receiving a CalSTRS disability benefit

The amount of the benefit is set by the Teachers' Retirement Board. If you die after retirement or while receiving a CalSTRS disability benefit, the benefit amount is currently \$6,163. If you die before retirement, the benefit is currently \$6,163 under Coverage A and \$24,652 under Coverage B.

Be sure to keep your *One-Time Death Benefit Recipient* form current. Even if your beneficiaries are not eligible to receive the one-time death benefit, they still may be eligible to receive the contributions and interest in your Defined Benefit and Defined Benefit Supplement accounts.

Plan ahead and complete the
One-Time Death Benefit Recipient form.

You can change your recipients at any time,
with no financial penalty.
Find the form online at CalSTRS.com.

Monthly Benefit

CalSTRS provides benefits to your survivors whether your death occurs before or after retirement.

If You Die Before Retirement

If you die before retirement with a preretirement election of an option, your beneficiaries will receive a lifetime monthly benefit based on the reduced benefit that would have been paid if you had retired on the date of your death.

If you die as an active member or while receiving a Coverage A disability benefit and you did not elect a preretirement option, your survivors, including your spouse or registered domestic partner and dependent children, may be eligible for a monthly survivor benefit.

If You Die After Retirement

If you elect an option, your service retirement or disability benefit under Coverage B will be reduced. Your option beneficiaries will receive a lifetime monthly benefit after your death.

If you choose not to elect an option, you will receive your full retirement or disability benefit. When you die, your lifetime benefit will end.

See *Electing An Option Beneficiary* for descriptions of current options.

To help you decide if a preretirement election of an option or the survivor benefit would be most beneficial to your loved ones, see “Protecting Your Loved Ones Before You Retire” in the *Member Handbook*.

Defined Benefit Supplement Distribution

Your membership status when you die—active or retired—determines how the balance in your Defined Benefit Supplement account will be distributed.

If You Die Before Retirement

Your Defined Benefit Supplement account balance will be distributed to the recipients you name on your *One-Time Death Benefit Recipient* form.

If You Die After Retirement

If you elect an option beneficiary, you may choose to receive your Defined Benefit Supplement funds as a monthly annuity, payable to your option beneficiary after you die.

If you do not elect an option, any remaining balance in your account will be distributed to the recipients you name on your *One-Time Death Benefit Recipient* form.

Coverage A or B

If you retired or began receiving CalSTRS disability benefits on or before October 15, 1992, you have Coverage A. If you were a CalSTRS member prior to 1992, you remain in Coverage A unless you elected Coverage B before April 1993.

Not sure which coverage you have? Look on your *Retirement Progress Report*, check your account online at *myCalSTRS* on CalSTRS.com, e-mail us at **CalSTRS.com/contactus** or call us at **800-228-5453**.

Electing An Option Beneficiary

At service retirement or when you begin receiving a Coverage B disability benefit, you can elect an option to provide a lifetime benefit for someone after your death.

In addition, you can elect a preretirement election of an option when you are eligible, but not yet ready, to retire.

Your Options

You can elect:

100% Beneficiary Option

Your beneficiary will receive the same monthly amount you received during retirement.

75% Beneficiary Option

Your beneficiary will receive 75 percent of the monthly amount you received during retirement.

50% Beneficiary Option

Your beneficiary will receive 50 percent of the monthly amount you received during retirement.

Compound Option

You may elect a number of beneficiaries and mixed percentages to receive a lifetime benefit after you die.

For more information, see “Protecting Your Survivors with a Lifetime Benefit” in the *Member Handbook*.

If you are approaching retirement, plan to talk with one of our benefits counselors to learn more about the decisions you will need to make before you retire.

Reporting A Death

When reporting the death of a member or beneficiary, notify us as soon as possible so that we can update the account.

Needed information:

- Deceased person's name and Social Security or Client ID number
- Date of death
- Name, address and telephone number of a contact person



Organize Your Important Records

Take the time to share your plans with your loved ones.

My Important Documents	Where I Keep Them
Will and trust documents	
Marriage certificates, divorce decrees, birth and adoption papers	
State and federal income tax returns	
Insurance documents	
Banking records	
Credit card records	
CalSTRS benefits information	
Other	

Other Important Information

Safe deposit box

- Location: _____

- Key Location: _____

- Who has access: _____

Organizations and associations I belong to

Other people familiar with my affairs

Attorney: _____

Spiritual adviser: _____

Physician: _____

Others: _____

Who should be notified in the event of my death?

CalSTRS Disability and Survivor
Benefits 800-228-5453

Social Security Administration
800-772-1213

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
800-827-1000

CalSTRS Resources

WEB SITES



www.CalSTRS.com
Click *Contact Us* to e-mail
www.403bCompare.com

CALL



800-228-5453
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday
866-384-4457
Home Loan Program
888-394-2060
CalSTRS Pension2®
Personal Wealth Plan

WRITE



CalSTRS
P.O. Box 15275
Sacramento, CA 95851-0275

VISIT



Member Services
100 Waterfront Place
West Sacramento, CA 95605

FAX



916-414-5040 (*new*)

CalSTRS West Sacramento Headquarters may experience closures through June 30, 2010, due to ordered employee furloughs.

Please call to confirm business hours.